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Evangelical Advocacy: A Response to Global Poverty

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CTM 620
Political and Public Theologies
Fall 2010
Palmer Theological Seminary
Course Syllabus
Tokunbo Adelekan, Professor

Tuesdays 3:00-5:45pm

Professor's Office Hours: by appointment

Professor's Office: (484)-284-2969

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Email: Mt.Olivettbc647@yahoo.com/ tahira2000@yahoo.com

Course Description

This course will explore Christian theological motifs and movements that have influenced the transformation of North American and Global society in the 20th century. Students will examine biblical, theological and philosophical foundations developed by church movements and Christian thinkers that have been integral to the transformation/redemption of the social order. The terms public theology and political theology are shorthand rubrics that signify certain types and styles of ecclesiastical intervention in Civil Society. Theological movements to be explored include: Christian Realism, the various Civil Rights Movements, kinds of Liberation Theology, Feminist and Womanist perspectives, Evangelical Theology, etc. Additional focus will be given to global and international developments as well. The lectures will focus on a particular thinker or theme, and will explore broader cultural, historical, and economic practices pragmatically.

Sub-disciplines

1. Historical Analysis: taking account of the forces that have contributed to (or shaped) the present problem, issue, debate or debacle. Asking the question "Where did that come from" John 9.
2. Ethological Analysis: Exegesis of the cultural and social context of the problem. Giving a description of the fitting structures of an ethos that sustain and form its "theatre of values." H. Richard Niebuhr's tadpole. Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?" Luke 3:1-12 "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberias Caesar."
3. Deontology: Identifying and elaborating upon the universal principles of right and wrong that govern all contexts. The Decalogue: Luke "Thou shall love thy God with all they mind, strength and soul."
4. Teleology: clarifying the good ends, the vision of the just society, and the best means, toward which we should act: "Thy Kingdom Come."

Note: While these four sub-disciplines are all necessary, and each has its special importance, none is sufficient alone. Each needs theological support, finding support in a *Convenantal-Trinitarian Theology of Grace*.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

The Teaching Team will facilitate through diverse means the student's accomplishment of the course objectives. Methods of instruction will integrate lectures, discussions and exercises designed to stimulate interest and to clarify understanding. Evaluation will be based on completion of the class requirements, with special attention to personal, theological and/or pastoral reflection on the topics at hand, accuracy of content, clarity of expression and style of presentations.

REQUIRED READING

1. Max L. Stackhouse, *Public Theology and Political Economy: Christian Stewardship in Modern Society*
2. Ronald J. Sider, *Just Generosity: A New Vision for Overcoming Poverty in America*
3. Stanley Hauerwas, *The Peaceable Kingdom: A Primer in Christian Ethics*
4. Garry Dorrien, *Soul in Society: The Making and Renewal of Social Christianity*
5. Vergilio Elizondo, *The Future is Mestizo: Life Where Cultures Meet*
6. Dwight Hopkins, *Down, Up, and Over: Slave Religion and Black Theology (New Vectors in the Study of Religion and Theology)*

RECOMMENDED READING

Katie G. Cannon, *Black Womanist Ethics* (AAR Academy Series)
Gustavo Gutierrez, *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, and Salvation*
Langdon Gilkey, *On Niebuhr: A Theological Study*

NOTE: Additional required readings will be placed on reserve in the library of Palmer Theological Seminary.

Course Requirements

Attendance at all class sessions is required. If the student misses more than one class, or if portions of classes are missed repeatedly, the student's grade may be lowered and the student may be asked to withdraw. Students should inform the Professor, as soon as possible, when unable to attend class. Each student should contribute to class discussion with a spirit of Christian fellowship (class participation is 10% of the final grade).

1. Attend all classes. This includes arriving to class prepared, on time and staying for the entire session.
 2. Complete all reading assignments.
 3. Participate in class exercises and discussions. You are encouraged to bring your views to class to help generate discussion.
 4. Complete three (3) one-page reports on the assigned readings; to be read and discussed in precept or forums. Please use Chicago Style format and 12 point standard font.
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5. Students are required to lead the discussion in one of the following: precept, open forum, or roundtable.

6. Review Sessions: The purpose of these sessions is to critically engage and constructively review material for the class.

Grading Scheme:

Reflection/Précis papers 30% total (3 papers: each represents 10% of grade)

Class Participation 15%

Precept (Small) Group Participation 15%

Final paper 40%

Important Dates to Remember

First Reflection Paper Due: 9/28/2010

Second Reflection Paper Due: 10/26/2010

Third Reflection Paper Due: 11/30/2010

Final Paper Topic Approval 10/12/2010

Final Paper Due No Later Than 12/18/2010

PRECEPT PAPER GUIDELINES

CONTENT: The paper should reflect responsible research and careful reasoning. A good paper represents an ability to engage in critical dialogue with others. It should reflect critical interaction and regard for what others have said.

LENGTH: ABOUT ONE PAGE SINGLE SPACE OR TWO PAGES DOUBLE SPACE (FRONT AND BACK PREFERABLY)

FINAL PAPER- GUIDELINES

1. The paper should be 10 (double spaced) pages in length. Please use Chicago Style format and 11-12 point standard font.
2. The paper should reflect responsible research and careful reasoning. A good paper represents an ability to engage in critical dialogue with others. It should reflect critical interaction and regard for what others have said.
3. The paper must be a critical constructive examination of a theme or several related themes of this course. Students may wish to develop THEOLOGICAL OR ETHICAL analysis of a specific problem. Those who wish to develop alternative or unique projects must have topics approved by the Professor.
4. Identify, clearly and boldly, what you intend to do in the beginning of your work
5. Students should consult notes, class textbooks and other material (Journal essays and articles, speeches, sermons etc.) in grounding their paper. Also, take hints from comments written in the margins of the smaller papers.
6. Papers should reflect sound biblical interpretation as required.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PHASE ONE: SOCIAL CHRISTIANITY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

First Week 9/7/2010

Introduction: Course, Conventions, Content

Lecture 1: “Critical Moments in Twentieth Century Christianity

PUBLIC-POLITICAL FOCUS: WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH’S SOCIAL GOSPEL

Complete Reading by 9/14/2010: Dorriens’ *The Making and Renewal of Social Christianity* (First Half of Book)

Assign Semester Groups and Discuss Round Table

Second Week 9/14/2010

Lecture 2: “Doing Christianity in Public”

PUBLIC-POLITICAL FOCUS: REINHOLD NIEBUHR’S CHRISTIAN REALISM

Complete Reading by 9/21/2010: Dorrien *The Making and Renewal of Social Christianity* (2nd half of book)

Class Discussion/Group Discussion

PHASE TWO: PUBLIC THEOLOGY

Third Week 9/21/2010

Lecture 3: “Christianity: A Public Faith” (Prophets of the Public Square)

PUBLIC-POLITICAL FOCUS: DAVID TRACY’S THEOLOGICAL PLURALISM

Complete Reading by 9/28/08: Stackhouse, *Public Theology and Political Economy* (1st half of book)

Class Discussion/Group Discussion

Class Discussion/Group Discussion

Fourth Week 9/28/2010

Lecture 4: **GUEST LECTURE**

Complete Reading by 10/05/2010: Stackhouse, *Public Theology and Political Economy* (2nd half of book)

Class Discussion/Group Discussion

I
**PUBLIC-POLITICAL FOCUS:
TO BE DETERMINED**

NOTE: FIRST REFLECTION DUE

Fifth Week 10/05/2010

Lecture 5: **GUEST LECTURE**

**PUBLIC-POLITICAL FOCUS:
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S BELOVED COMMUNITY**

Complete Reading by 10/12/2010: Ron Sider's *Just Generosity* (1st half of book)

Class Discussion/Group Discussion

Sixth Week 10/12/2010

Lecture 6: **"Towards an Evangelical Theology of Social Life: The Biblical Basis"**

**PUBLIC-POLITICAL FOCUS:
RON SIDER AND JURGEN MOLTSMANN**

Complete Reading by 10/26/08: Sider (2nd half of BOOK)

Class Discussion/Group Discussion

FINAL PAPER TOPIC APPROVAL DEADLINE*

NOTE: October 18-23 Reading Week: No Class

PHASE THREE POLITICAL THEOLOGY

Seventh Week 10/26/2010

Film Eyes on the Prize

Lecture 7: "An African-American Critical Consciousness"

Dwight Hopkins, *Down, Up, and Over: Slave Religion and Black Theology* (First half of book)

**PUBLIC-POLITICAL FOCUS:
JAMES CONE'S LIBERATION THEOLOGY**

Complete Reading by 11/2/2010:

Class Discussion/Group Discussion

SECOND REFLECTION DUE

Eighth Week: 11/2/2010

Lecture 8: "American Dreams American Nightmares"

Dwight Hopkins, *Down, Up, and Over: Slave Religion and Black Theology* (Second HALF OF BOOK)

Complete Reading by 11/9/2010:

**PUBLIC-POLITICAL FOCUS:
CORNEL WEST PROPHETIC PRAGMATISM/KATIE CANNON'S BLACK
WOMANIST ETHICS**

Class Discussion/Group Discussion

Ninth Week: 11/9/2010

Lecture 9:

Complete Reading by 11/16/201 Vergilio Elizondo (Read Most of Book)

Class Discussion/Group Discussion

**PUBLIC-POLITICAL FOCUS:
GUSTAVO GUITIERREZ'S LIBERATION THEOLOGY**

Tenth Week: 11/16/2010

Lecture 10: TBA

Complete Reading by 11/30/201 Vergilio Elizondo

NOTE: BEGIN READING HAUERWAS

Debate/Presentation Part A

PUBLIC-POLITICAL FOCUS

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF STANLEY HAUERWAS

Thanksgiving Break November 23-27

PHASE FOUR: THE CHURCH AS POLIS

Eleventh Week: 11/30/2010

Lecture 11:

Debate/Presentation Part B

Complete by 12/7/2010 Stanley Hauerwas, *The Peaceable Kingdom: A Primer in Christian Ethics*

PUBLIC-POLITICAL FOCUS:
STANLEY HAUERWAS

Class Discussion/Group Discussion

NOTE: THIRD REFLECTION PAPER DUE

Twelfth Week: 12/7/2010

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

****CLASS FEAST/CELEBRATION****

GROUP ROUNDTABLE

Fifteenth Week: 12/14/2010

ADDITIONAL READING

David Garrow, *The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It*, (University of Tennessee, 1987)

Vincent Harding, "Introduction – We the People: The long Journey Toward A More Perfect Union" in C. Carson, D. Garrow,

V. Harding, D. Hine (eds), *Eyes On The Prize: America's Civil Rights Years*, (Penguin)

- Hope and History: *Why We Must Share The Story Of The Movement*, (Orbis 1990)
- "The Land Beyond: Reflections on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 'Beyond Vietnam' Speech" in Sojourners (January 1986)
- M. William Howard, Jr., "Martin Luther King, Jr.: Challenge to the Church" in Princeton Seminary Bulletin, Vol. VIII, No. 2, New Series, 1987

Martin Luther King, Jr., *Stride Toward Freedom* (Harper, 1958)

Why We Can't Wait, (Mentor)

Where Do We Go From Here, Chaos or Community? (Beacon)

Trumpet of Conscience (Harper 1967)

Richard Lischer, *The Preacher King: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Word That Moved America*, (Oxford University Press, 1955)

Enoch H. Oglesby, *Ethics and Theology From the Other Side: Sounds of Moral Struggle* (University Press of America)

Peter J. Paris, *Black Religious Leaders: Conflict in Unity*, (Westminster, 1992)

Rosa Parks with Jim Haskins, *Rosa Parks, My Story*, (Dial Books, 1992)

Ervin Smith, *The Ethics of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, (Edwin Mellen Press)

Kenneth L. Smith and Ira G. Zepp, Jr., *The Search For The Beloved Community: The Thinking of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (Judson Press)

Cornel West, "Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Prophetic Christian as Organic Intellectual," in *Prophetic Fragments* (William B. Eerdmans's 1988) *The Journal of Religious Ethics*, Volume 18/2, fall 1990; also Volume 23/1, spring 1995